

What is Claimed is:

1. Apparatus for processing photographic material comprising a base member for locating the material to be processed, the base member being
5 provided with a channel at either side thereof for holding the processing solution, and spreading means for transferring the solution from one side channel to the other, thereby spreading the solution across the material.
2. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the side channels are
10 shallow.
3. Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein the depth of the channels is between 1 mm and 50 mm.
4. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the side channels are
15 provided with one or more rib members on the wall remote from the base member.
5. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the channels are curved.
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6. Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 wherein the curve on the side remote to the base member has a steeper slope than that on the side closest to the base member.
7. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein a roller spreads the
25 solution across the material.
8. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein a pad spreads the solution across the material.
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9. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein an air knife spreads the solution across the material.

10. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the base member is made of a heat conductive material.

5 11. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the base has a recess in which the material is located, the recess having a depth slightly greater than the thickness of the material.

10 12. A method of processing photographic material comprising the steps of locating the material on the base member, supplying solution to at least one of the side channels and transferring the solution from one channel to the other across the material, thereby causing the solution to be spread and agitated uniformly over the material.

15 13. A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the processing solution is metered into the channels.

20 14. A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein a two part solution has a first part supplied to one channel and a second part supplied to the other channel, the solution being mixed by action of the spreading means as it passes over the material.

25 15. A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the solution and the material are heated by heating the base member, the base member being pre-heated.

16. A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the solution is spread across the material by means of a roller.

30 17. A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the solution is spread across the material by means of a pad.

18. A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the solution is spread across the material by means of an air knife.

19. A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein every stage of the entire process cycle is performed with the material located in the base member by sequentially adding and removing processing solutions for a given stage followed by the adding and removing the processing solutions for the next stage and so on to complete the entire process cycle.

20. A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the process is customized to suit any particular material.

21. A photographic processing system comprising a first processor according to claim 1 arranged to receive photographic material and perform a first processing stage on the material and at least one additional processor according to claim 1 arranged to receive photographic material from the first processor, the at least one additional processor being arranged to perform one or more subsequent processing stages on the material.

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